

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for playing audio tracks on a computing device according to a globally relevant playlist, the method comprising:

selecting a first track referenced by the globally relevant playlist, the first track being associated with a first global track identifier, the first global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track to uniquely identify the contents of the first track;

determining whether the first track is locally accessible to the computing device according to the first global track identifier by comparing the first global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track is locally accessible to the computing device, playing the first track on the computing device.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising if, according to the previous determination, the first track is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the first track ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the first global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the first track from the remote location ~~according to the first global track identifier;~~ and

playing the first track on the computing device.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 2 further comprising ~~obtaining~~ determining whether the first track is obtainable from the remote location according to the first global track identifier and a specified track format.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 2 further comprising determining whether any additional tracks are referenced by the globally relevant playlist, and if so:

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for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

selecting the additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist, the additional track being associated with an additional global track identifier, the additional global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the additional track to uniquely identify the contents of the additional track;

determining whether the selected additional track is locally accessible to the computing device according to the additional global track identifier by comparing the additional global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track is locally accessible to the computing device, playing the selected additional track on the computing device.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4 further comprising:

for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the selected additional track ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the additional global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the selected additional track from the remote location ~~according to the additional global track identifier;~~ and

playing the selected additional track on the computing device.

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 5 further comprising ~~obtaining~~ determining whether the selected additional track ~~[[,]]~~ is obtainable from the remote location according to the additional global track identifier and a specified track format.

7. (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions which, when executed, carry out a method for playing audio tracks on a computing device, the method comprising:

selecting a first track referenced by a globally relevant playlist, the first track being associated with a first global track identifier, the first global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track to uniquely identify the contents of the first track;

determining whether the first track is locally accessible to the computing device according to the first global track identifier by comparing the first global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track is locally accessible to the computing device, playing the first track on the computing device.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 7 further comprising if, according to the previous determination, the first track is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the first track ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the first global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the first track from the remote location ~~according to the first global track identifier~~; and

playing the first track on the computing device.

9. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8 further comprising ~~obtaining~~ determining whether the first track is obtainable from the remote location according to the first global track identifier and a specified track format.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8 further comprising determining whether any additional tracks are referenced by the globally relevant playlist, and if so:

for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

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selecting the additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist, the additional track being associated with an additional global track identifier, the additional global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the additional track to uniquely identify the contents of the additional track;

determining whether the selected additional track is locally accessible to the computing device according to the additional global track identifier by comparing the additional global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track is locally accessible to the computing device, playing the selected additional track on the computing device.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the selected additional track ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the additional global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the selected additional track from the remote location ~~according to the additional global track identifier;~~ and

playing the selected additional track on the computing device.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 11 further comprising ~~obtaining~~ determining whether the selected additional track is obtainable from the remote location according to the additional global track identifier and a specified track format.

13. (Currently amended) A method for downloading tracks from a computing device onto a player device according to a globally relevant playlist, the method comprising:

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selecting a first track encoded in a first format referenced by the globally relevant playlist, the first track encoded in the first format being associated with a first global track identifier, the first global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track encoded in the first format to uniquely identify the contents of the first track encoded in the first format;

determining whether the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the first global track identifier by comparing the first global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the first track encoded in the first format from the computing device to the player device; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device:

determining a second global track identifier identifying the first track encoded in a second format, the second global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track encoded in the second format to uniquely identify the contents of the first track in the second format;

determining whether the first track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the second global track identifier by comparing the second global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the first track encoded in the second format from the computing device to the player device.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13 further comprising if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to

the computing device, determining whether the first track encoded in the first format ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the first global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the first track encoded in the first format from the remote location ~~according to the first global track identifier~~; and

downloading the first track from the computing device to the player device.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising determining whether any additional tracks are referenced by the globally relevant playlist, and if so:

for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

selecting the additional track encoded in a first format referenced by the globally relevant playlist, the additional track encoded in the first format associated with an additional global track identifier, the additional global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the additional track encoded in the first format to uniquely identify the contents of the additional track encoded in the first format;

determining whether the selected additional track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the additional global track identifier by comparing the additional global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the selected additional track encoded in the first format from the computing device to the player device;

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device:

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determining a second additional global track identifier identifying the additional track encoded in a second format, the second additional global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the additional track encoded in the second format to uniquely identify the contents of the additional track encoded in the second format;

determining whether the additional track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the second additional global track identifier by comparing the second additional global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the additional track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the additional track encoded in the second format from the computing device to the player device.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16 further comprising:

for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the selected additional track encoded in the first format ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the additional global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the selected additional track encoded in the first format from the remote location ~~according to the additional global track identifier;~~ and

downloading the selected additional track from the computing device to the player device.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein determining whether the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the first global track identifier comprises:

determining whether the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the first global track identifier and whether the first format is compatible with the player device.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19 further comprising if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device but the first format is not compatible with the player device:

on the computing device, converting the first track encoded in the first format to a format compatible with the player device; and

downloading the converted first track from the computing device to the player device.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein determining whether the selected additional track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the additional global track identifier comprises:

determining whether the selected additional track is locally accessible to the computing device according to the additional global track identifier and whether the first format is compatible with the player device.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, further comprising if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device but the first format is not compatible with the player device:

on the computing device, converting the selected additional track encoded in the first format to a format compatible with the player device; and

downloading the converted selected additional track from the computing device to the player device.

23. (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions which, when executed, carry out a method for downloading tracks from a computing device onto a player device, the method comprising:

selecting a first track encoded in a first format referenced by a globally relevant playlist, the first track encoded in the first format being associated with a first global track identifier, the first global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track encoded in the first format to uniquely identify the contents of the first track encoded in the first format;

determining whether the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the first global track identifier by comparing the first global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the first track from the computing device to the player device; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device:

determining a second global track identifier identifying the first track encoded in a second format, the second global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track encoded in the second format to uniquely identify the contents of the first track in the second format;

determining whether the first track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the second global track identifier by comparing the second global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the first track encoded in the second format from the computing device to the player device.

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23 further comprising if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the first track encoded in the first format ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the first global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the first track encoded in the first format from the remote location ~~according to the first global track identifier~~; and

downloading the first track from the computing device to the player device.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 24 further comprising determining whether any additional tracks are referenced by the globally relevant playlist, and if so:

for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

selecting the additional track encoded in a first format referenced by the globally relevant playlist, the additional track encoded in the first format associated with an additional global track identifier, the additional global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the additional track encoded in the first format to uniquely identify the contents of the additional track encoded in the first format;

determining whether the selected additional track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the additional global track identifier by comparing the additional global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the selected additional track encoded in the first format from the computing device to the player device;

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device:

determining a second additional global track identifier identifying the additional track encoded in a second format, the second additional global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the additional track encoded in the second format to uniquely identify the contents of the additional track encoded in the second format;

determining whether the additional track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the second additional global track identifier by comparing the second additional global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the additional track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device, downloading the additional track encoded in the second format from the computing device to the player device.

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26 further comprising:

for each additional track referenced by the globally relevant playlist:

if, according to the previous determination, the selected additional track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the selected additional track encoded in the first format ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the additional global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the selected additional track encoded in the first format from the remote location ~~according to the additional global track identifier;~~ and

downloading the selected additional track from the computing device to the player device.

28-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A method for playing audio tracks according to a globally relevant playlist, the method comprising:

selecting a first global track identifier from a globally relevant playlist, the first global track identifier identifying a first track encoded in a first format, the first global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track encoded in the first format to uniquely identify the contents of the first track encoded in the first format;

determining whether the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the first global track identifier by comparing the first global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is locally accessible to the computing device, playing the first track encoded in the first format on the computing device;

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the first format is not locally accessible to the computing device:

determining a second global track identifier identifying the first track encoded in a second format, the second global track identifier being generated as a function of the contents of the first track encoded in the second format to uniquely identify the contents of the first track in the second format;

determining whether the first track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device according to the second global track identifier by comparing the second global track identifier to each of a plurality of local global track identifiers; and

if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the second format is locally accessible to the computing device, playing the first track encoded in the second format on the computing device.

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 38, wherein the first global track identifier is associated with a set of alternative global track identifiers, and wherein determining a second global track identifier identifying the first track encoded in a second format comprises determining the second global track identifier from the set of alternative global track identifiers.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the set of alternative global track identifiers is found in a database of global track identifiers.

41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the set of alternative global track identifiers is found in the globally relevant playlist.

42. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 38, further comprising:
if, according to the previous determination, the first track encoded in the second format is not locally accessible to the computing device, determining whether the first track encoded in the first format or the first track encoded in the second format ~~may be obtained~~ is obtainable from a remote location according to the first global track identifier or the second global track identifier, and if so:

obtaining the first track from the remote location ~~according to the first global track identifier or the second global track identifier~~; and

playing the first track on the computing device.